

REMARKS

1. Applicant would like to express his appreciation for the interview granted by Examiner Graham on February 20, 2008, to the undersigned attorney. During this interview, the undersigned attorney agreed to make amendments to the claims to change the reference to "client" to "customer" and to make changes to the independent claims to clarify that the proxy makes payment to the vendor on behalf of the customer through the use of the anonymous personal purchasing identification number. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments agreed upon during the aforementioned interview have been made.

As discussed during the aforementioned interview, Applicant's invention provides a unique method of conducting an anonymous transaction over the Internet by (1) confirming the identity of the customer wanting to conduct an anonymous transaction; (2) assigning a limited use anonymous personal purchasing identification number that serves as the sole identification of the customer during the transaction; (3) using through a proxy the anonymous personal purchasing identification number on behalf of the customer to make a commercial transaction requiring a payment to be made to a vendor; and (4) transmitting payment to the vendor from the proxy after confirming payment from the customer to the proxy for the transaction.

Applicant respectfully submits that this claimed method of transacting and the system for transacting such anonymous commercial transactions over the Internet is not taught by any known or cited prior art and, thus, presents a patentable advance in the art. Allowance of the claims, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

2. The Office Action has rejected Claims 1, 13, 19 and 25 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action states that these independent claims recite mere ideas in the abstract without a practical application and, thus, non-statutory subject matter. The Office Action concludes that these independent claims do not produce a useful, concrete and tangible result. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed with Examiner Graham during the aforementioned interview, all of the claims have been amended to change the reference of the “client” to the “customer”. Furthermore, each of these four independent claims now contain limitations specifying that the payment for the transactions on behalf of the customer is made by the proxy server, while payment by the customer is to the proxy to maintain the anonymity of the customer’s identity. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims clearly provide a useful, concrete and tangible result in providing a manner by which a person can transact business over the Internet in a completely anonymous manner so that the person’s personal and confidential information is protected from being accessed over the Internet.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that statutory subject matter is set forth in all four independent claims and respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

3. The Office Action has rejected Claims 1 – 30 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0034725 (Park). The Office Action states that Park meets the limitations of the claims with reference being made primarily to the disclosure of Park at Paragraphs 0002, 0008, 0009, 0022 and 0025. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

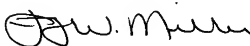
As discussed during the aforementioned interview, Applicant has submitted a second Affidavit Under Rule 131 to swear behind the Park reference. During the aforementioned interview, Examiner Graham agreed that the Park reference was removed as prior art.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that all remaining claims be passed to allowance.

4. In summary, Claims 1, 9, 11 – 14, 18 – 20, 23, 25, 27, 28 and 30 have been amended and Claims 1 – 30 remain in the application. Applicant believes that the claims are allowable based on the foregoing amendments. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn and that all claims remaining in this case be allowed.

Pursuant to currently recommended Patent Office practice, the Examiner is expressly authorized to call Applicant's attorney, if in his judgment disposition of this application could be expedited or if he considers the case ready for final disposition by other than allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L.W. Miller", is written over a horizontal line.

Date: February 20, 2008

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